

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated August 9, 2005. Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-6 were allowed, and claims 7 and 8 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 7 and 8 have been amended. Claims 7 and 8 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**Drawings**

The objection to the drawings is noted and corrected in accordance with the replacement drawing sheets accompanying this Amendment.

Applicants have provided replacement drawing sheets including Figs. 3-6 for the corresponding previously filed drawing sheets. The replacement sheets amend Figs. 3-6 by inserting the label "Prior Art" for each of the figures.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the drawings are now in compliance with all formality requirements, and request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

**§102 Rejections**

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muraguchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,874).

Applicants submit that claims 7 and 8 are patentable over Muraguchi.

Applicants' invention as recited in claims 7 and 8 is directed toward an optical communication apparatus and an optical communication method in which "light for transmission and [light] for receipt of substantially a same wavelength are

propagated simultaneously over a single core fiber to effect bidirectional communication." (emphasis supplied)

Muraguchi fails to disclose bidirectional communication over a single core fiber. Rather, Muraguchi discloses bidirectional communication over a two-core fiber. (see e.g. Muraguchi col. 3, lines 51-57. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 7 and 8 are patentable over Muraguchi on at least this basis.

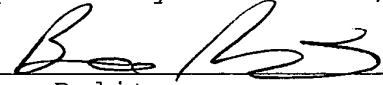
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully addressed, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to discuss any additional objections which he/she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Dated: October 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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